

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

YESTERDAY, ITS LAW AND ITS LITERATURE. By E. H. BOWKER, with Bibliography of Literary Proprietary THOMAS SCOTT, &c. pp. 66. Office of the Publishers Weekly.

Mr. Bowker has undertaken to present in this publication a summary of the established principles and history of copyright, especially in books, and a pretty full account of the present state of the law both in this country and abroad. His compilation will be useful, and it embraces various matters which have a particular reference to discussions now going on, although it does not aim at the thoroughness and precision of a law treatise. The introductory chapter on "The Nature and Origin of the Copyright," offers some excellent principles and perhaps nearly covers all the ground necessary for the foundation of a popular essay; but in view of certain misconceptions which seem to have fastened themselves in a great many American minds, we wish that this part of the subject had been treated more thoroughly and with an ample reference to admitted authorities. If we are to return our copyright abuses effectively, we must understand what are an author's inherent rights to his productions, and whence they are derived. We can claim property in his book in virtue of natural justice, or only because the State has given him, for reasons of its own, a limited control over it. Is the exclusive privilege of reproduction, as secured by the statutes, a recognition by the Legislature of an author's natural rights, or is it a mere benevolence granted for the sake of expediency? Is it true, as some pretend, that an author has an inherent right only to the material substance, the paper and ink, of his unpublished book, and that anybody has a moral right to copy it, sell the copies, and appropriate all the profit of it? These questions have to be answered before we can make up our minds upon what lines copyright reform ought to proceed. In point of fact they have been answered many times; but the answers need to be pressed home to disputants who go on passing forth exploded notions and sheltering themselves behind ridiculous arguments.

## ENGLISH HYMNS THEIR AUTHORS AND HISTORY. BY SAMUEL WILKINSON DUFFIELD. 8vo. pp. viii, 675. Fawcett &amp; Warne.

The Rev. Mr. Duffield's work is a learned and an almost exhaustive study which leaves little for any subsequent laborer to do in the same field. It gives the history of about 1,500 of the hymns in current use in the English and American churches, designating them by their first lines (without printing the text), and presenting under each of these captions the name of the author, an account of the origin of the composition whenever it is possible to give one, and in many cases biographical sketches, critical estimates, incidents, anecdotes, and corrections of unsatisfactory versions. Some of these notices are very brief; others are long, elaborate, and show extensive research, not only among the standard authorities on hymnology, but in other quarters which have been little explored.

Enthusiastic in his love for the subject and untiring in his industry, Mr. Duffield has produced a book of singular interest as well as of high scholarship, which is sure to be appreciated in the clerical profession. A chronological table and three excellent indexes add largely to its value.

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By order of the committee.

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The polls will be open from 12 o'clock noon to 3 o'clock p.m. The transfer book of said certificates will be closed on JUNE 25, 1886.

By order of the committee. F. P. OL'COTT, Chairman, New York, June 2, 1886.

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